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Government
Publications

Correctional Volunteers in Action



Ontario

Ministry of
Correctional
Services

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DO YOU

- Want to share an interest . . .
- give something of yourself to another . . .
- Wish to do something worthwhile . . .
- Want an opportunity for personal growth . . .
- Wish to give a direct personal service . . .
- Want a challenge which is interesting . . .
- enjoyable . . .
- provides new social contacts . . .
- Wish to expand your knowledge . . . ? ? ?



THEN

We believe that you can find a rewarding involvement as a volunteer in corrections, with a probationer, in an adult institution or in one of our community programmes.

WHY

People in trouble with the law need help and understanding and the acceptance and friendship of people like you. Above all it is important to know that somebody outside of their immediate circle of friends really cares. You may well be that special person whose influence is the turning point in the life of another human being.



WHO IS THE OFFENDER

The majority of people in the Ministry's care are under 23 years of age. They are often in need of a great deal of support and assistance. Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that the offender could be anyone at all who has failed in some area to meet the demands and pressures of modern day living. With help and understanding he will be able to meet the expectations of society.



WHAT CAN YOU DO

If you wish to form a one-to-one relationship, the commitment expected of you could be to another person for a year or more, providing supervision to an adult probationer, or befriending a man or woman during their sentence and after release.

The list of volunteer activities is almost unlimited, and almost any skill you may wish to offer could be the basis of involvement. Some examples are:

- life skills instructor
- group discussion
- job finding
- volunteer coordinator
- creative writing
- drama
- work with families
- vocational counselling
- chess
- hobbycraft
- budget cooking for singles
- teaching literacy

The important thing is that you have something to share with another, be it a skill, an interest or an ability to listen, that you are ready to share yourself with another person, and that you care.

WHERE

You are almost certain to be living near an adult Probation Office, or a local jail, detention or correctional centre or a Community Resource Centre. The Ministry is active in all communities of the province.

If you cannot locate one of our local programmes, you are invited to contact:

Coordinator
Volunteer Programmes
Ministry of Correctional Services
2001 EGLINTON Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario
M1L 4P1
Telephone: 750-3475